

AMENDMENTS TO SPECIFICATION

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~~U.S. Patent Application Ser. No. 10/153,895, filed May 24, 2002, and U.S. Patent No. 6,966,906,~~ incorporated by reference herein, discloses apparatus for deflecting a surgical instrument inserted into an endoscope, and a method of causing the surgical instrument to deflect during a surgical procedure, in which the surgical instrument is provided with a sheath made of a shape memory alloy having an austenitic transformation temperature no more than a few degrees above the normal temperature of the human body, and in which transformation to a desired shape is caused to occur by increasing the temperature of an irrigation fluid to just beyond the transformation temperature of the instrument.

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The present application extends the principle of using an irrigation fluid to cause transformation of a shape memory alloy to surgical applications other than those involving an endoscope tube and instruments of the type disclosed in U.S. Patent No. ~~10/153,895~~ 6,966,906.

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As illustrated in Fig. 3, the method of the invention involves inserting a surgical instrument of the above-described type to ~~an~~ a location at which shape transformation is desired (step 1). The surgical instrument is then exposed to irrigation fluid having a temperature T_2 above the transformation temperature T_T of the shape memory alloy. In the case of a urological retrieval coil, the shape memory alloy transforms into a coil that can be used to retrieve or trap stones in association with an intracorporeal lithotripter procedure. As is well-known, the coil or other shape is determined during manufacture of the instrument by forming the alloy into the desired shape at high temperature, and subsequently cooling and deforming the alloy as it cools.